2: Gamble S-5 (1926-1933) 1954 AF12 North China AF12

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LOTUS LANTERN

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535 groups of men got together to make music with drums, gongs, and cymbals. The drummer stood in the center of the circle and set the tempo. The others followed his lead. As variations to the clashing of the cymbals and the ringing of the gongs, some groups added the posturing and gestures of Chinese "boxing", all done without interrupting the playing of the instruments.

526 Ice on the ditches and streams made skating possible for those who could fasten an iron bar to their shoes, but metal was usually so scarce that sliding had to be the way most of the young people used the ice.

Kicking the shuttlecock was a game that was popular with the boys and young men during the winter. The shuttlecock was made from chicken feathers and a flat round piece of metal. In earlier days the

2· Gamble S-5 (1926-1933)1954 . AF12 North China AF12

TOP SPINNING

weight was usually several cash coins. The kicking was generally done with the side of the foot, but as the routine was extended and variations added the heel, toe, and instep were all used. Sometimes it was a group game with the shuttlecock kicked from one player to another, sometimes a contest between two players, sometimes simply individual practice and exercise. 526

Swinging on a rope swing fastened to a high wooden frame was very popular with both men and women. Bouncing balls and spinning tops were reported as women's recreation. 524

Board games were popular in the summertime. Figure 26 shows three different kinds of boards. Sometimes these are drawn on the ground and the pieces used are small stones picked up nearby. Sometimes the

8: Lin E-5 (1927)1928 AF12 North China AF12

465 431 Commutation of Gifts.—In China, festivals are important occasions, when edibles and other gifts are presented and exchanged. In the few years of its existence, the factory has made it a practice to present at various festival times to each worker 10 dumplings, ½ catty of "mid-Autumn cake," ¼ catty of dried plums, ½ catty of sugar, 10 cents for making "la-pa" porridge, a food to be taken on the eighth day of the last month in the year. Besides, the factory also presented to each worker two suits of clothing and a straw hat at festival times. All these gifts were commuted in March 1927 into an annual sum of nine dollars to be paid to each worker in monthly instalments at 75 cents.

While the seasonal gifts have been commuted into money, there remains, however, still the privilege of the workers having families to receive free salt from the factory. The husband and the wife are permitted to get every month one catty of refined salt each, free of charge, while all the other members of the family including the children get only half a catty each.

To those who do special work are given by the factory garments as well as head and foot wear. For instance, the watchman receives at the beginning of the winter season a felt hat, a fur coat and a pair of felt shoes. The dispatcher and the servant are each given a raincoat and a pair of water proof shoes.

466 Recreation.—Recreational activities of the workers in the factory consist of indoor and outdoor sports, new year entertainments, summer conference and modern plays. The expenses for all these activities are met by fines from unexcused absences, though the greater portion is contributed by the factory.

466 524 (1) A room next to the Workmen's Library is reserved for indoor games. There are ping-pong, chess, (such as "Wei" chess and "military" chess), and other articles of amusement. Chess games, both Chinese and foreign, are the most popular.

466 526 (2) Outdoor sports like the swing, the iron bar, the swing bridge, stone weights, etc. are very much liked by the workers. These apparatuses are installed in the courtyard of the work-

8: Lin E-5 (1927)1928 AF12 North China AF12

466 526 men's dormitory. Ball games, in particular the soccer, are also popular. Contests are often arranged with the workers of the Pacific Alkali Factory, and occasionally with the students of the Tangshan Engineering College.

(3) Typical Chinese new year amusements are very much liked by the workers. They are the dragon-lantern, lion-dance, fancy dress stilts, singing, and the boat-and-cart-shows. Owing to unsettled social and political conditions in these years, workers are not so enthusiatic for these shows as they used to be.

(4) A summer conference was held in 1925 by pupils in the Workmen's School. In the conference were held personal interviews, track and field meets, swinging contests, boxing, story telling, music and moving pictures for the amusements of the workers. This conference was discontinued in later years.

466 545 (5) Modern plays are performed by workers and members of the administrative staff. From 1921 to 1925, there were held theatrical performances of this kind two or three times a year. None, however, have been performed during recent years on account of the disturbed conditions in the country.

II. EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

466 873 Among the educational facilities provided by the Chiu Ta Factory may be mentioned: (1) the Workmen's School (2) the Ming Shin Primary School and (3) general educational facilities.

The Workmen's School.—The Workmen's School was first established in March 1921, its teachers being recruited from the administrative staff. But it was closed in June 1923, on account of the difficulty in getting enthusiastic teachers. Under a reorganization plan, in which the Chiu Ta Factory pledged 60 per cent and the Pacific Alkali Works 40 per cent of the total expenses for the support of the school, it was reopened in August 1924. There are in the new school two grades, the general and the special, the courses in each grade extending to three years. One paid teacher is employed to teach the Chinese language, while members of the adminstrative staff volunteer their services to teach other subjects or courses.